



Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Burke Commits \$331,000 to Increase Safety at Second District Park Pools

Supervisor Burke will also call for a \$10,000 reward for information leading to the arrests of those responsible for the beating death of a 60-year-old man who was sleeping in Ted Watkins Park

LOS ANGELES COUNTY - In the aftermath of unprovoked attacks at parks in the her district, Los Angeles County Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke has committed \$331,000 in discretionary funds to increase patrols at Second District swimming pools this summer.

Burke approved a request from Los Angeles County Police Chief Margaret A. York, who asked for additional funds to allow the Office of Public Safety to maintain its 10-hour coverage by eight officers, seven days a week through Labor Day.

"At our Tuesday, July 8 meeting, I will ask the Board of Supervisors to approve a \$10,000 reward for information leading to the arrests of those responsible for the July 6 death of 60-year-old James Hurst, who was sleeping in Ted Watkins Park when three suspects attempted to rob him."

"Our pools are our most valuable resource for youth, seniors and families, particularly during this summer heat wave," Burke added. "With these additional discretionary funds, our goal is to make sure that our parks are safe zones that are crime free this summer."

According to police reports, Mr. Hurst lost consciousness after the suspects hit him in the head two-to-three times with a blunt object. After he regained his consciousness, he was able to walk from Ted Watkins Park on Century Blvd. & Success Ave. to 92nd & Central Ave., where he called 911 from a pay phone.

Officers from the Los Angeles Police Department responded to the call and the victim was transported to St. Francis Hospital, where he died the next day (July 6, 2008) from injuries to his head.

The crime at Ted Watkins Park followed an incident at the 109th Street Swimming Pool in Watts where the pool was closed after a up to 30 young men went on a rampage overwhelming two armed guards and six pool workers, forcing the pool manager, a lifeguard and a locker room attendant into the water.

Anyone with information in the fatal beating of James Hurst at Ted Watkins Park should contact Detectives Barron or Payton at the L.A. County Sheriff's Homicide Bureau at 323.890.5500.

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